



**Paul R. LePage**  
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair  
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

## Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES  
June 26, 2013

### I. Roll Call:

Present: Kamden Berry, Edwin Chester, Abby Comee-McCourt, Nickole DeMerritt, James Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Amber Heikkinen, Joan McDonald, Tessa Mosher, Lisa Sandy, Jonathan J. Shapiro, Christine Thibeault, Patrick Walsh

Absent: Mark Boger, Rachel Boucher, Richard Brown (checked in via phone bridge), Dalene Dutton, Joseph Fitzpatrick, Carla Knapp, Charles Laverdiere, Margaret Longsworth, Pender Makin, Kayla McKenney, Christian Muhitira, Dan Nichols, Lindsey Tweed, Paul Vestal

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Noël Bonam, DMC, Alexander Fiorille, Maine State Government Intern, Jason Carey, Staff Assistant

Guests: Dr. Ross Green, *Lives in the Balance*; Katie Lauze, *SAMHS*; Susan Pettingill, *Project IMPACT*, Long Creek Youth Development Center; Susan Gagnon, *Region 3 Correctional Administrator*

Paul Vestal, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Paul called for around the table introductions.

### II. Minutes

The minutes for 4/24/2013 and 5/22/2013 meeting were approved with no corrections.

**Motion:** To approve minutes

**Moved:** Jim Foss/Christine Thibeault 2nd

**Action:** Approved

### III. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn noted the need to issue an RFP for a DMC coordinator sometime in August, 2013. Kathryn also introduced Alex Fiorille. Alex spoke about his work as a summer intern for the JJAG and his work on the integration of STEM into the JJAG's work, among other things. Alex announced the updating of the JJAG website for an easier and more generally informative usage experience. Jason Carey agreed with Alex's vision and invited insights from others in the group as the JJAG's website begins to evolve.

*OJJDP Title II Formula* funding stayed at \$400,000 again this year. The *Juvenile*

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*Accountability Block Grant* went down to \$127,693 from last year's \$167,000. Kathryn suggests focusing on remaining in compliance with all the four core requirements of the JJDP.

Remaining funds from 2011 are \$135,521 and no funds have been expended from the 2012 award. In answer to the question of extending a contract for a current sub grantee Kathryn said a contract may be extended if the program is producing the outputs and outcomes noted in the contract.

Concerns are looming regarding issuing a RFP for DMC data collection and analysis. The Muskie School of Public Service has worked with the JJAG for since the beginning of our DMC work and has the institutional knowledge to keep us in compliance with the JJDP. Paul Vestal noted that there will be other groups competing for that money too.

#### **IV. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen:**

Ryan has visited 17 police departments and 6 district courts monitoring for compliance since the last JJAG meeting. Ryan has identified the district court in Dover-Foxcroft as an area of concern and is currently working with David Herman, Piscataquis County Jail Administrator, to substantiate a change in sight and sound separation between juveniles and adults.

Ryan is working Travis Cote, Captain of Judicial Marshalls in Northern Maine, to schedule adult/juvenile appearances on separate days. Ryan also made an announcement about an upcoming program at Mountain View.

#### **V. Disproportionate Minority Contact – Noel Bonam:**

Muskie has staffing changes of key people working on our DMC program. Erica Hansen King and George Shaler will be stepping up Muskie to offer leadership and continuity. They look to get IRB approval by November to begin the family research. Students from UMaine law school will be participating in the research.

Noel identified several groups with funded, DMC-like initiatives that may overlap our work. He will be requesting that all meet to discuss areas of overlap to avoid redundant efforts while maximizing productivity and cooperation.

The Community and Strategic Planning Grant is a point of interest again this year as it brings a curriculum that has been developed by a national teen agency. The application is underway.

Noel, Kathryn and Alex met with Dolly Hersom owner of the House of Languages in an effort to develop a partnership to train interpreters. We were unable to come to the partnership so will find another option. Christine spoke about the importance of interpreters in the JJ system. The compilation of a language services list, containing qualified language interpreters, holds value for people involved in the system. Courts

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do not share their lists due to potential conflicts. Training for interpreters was suggested by Christine and Noel to help improve the experience of a victim or family.

## **VI. Committee/Department Reports:**

### ***Legislative Committee – Christine Thibeault, Esq.***

With the 126<sup>th</sup> winding down there is nothing new from the legislative committee. Ned and Christine will work this summer on potential legislations on juveniles using a ‘not criminally responsible by reason of insanity plea.’ When a teen enters a plea of NCRI, we have no legal authority to do anything with the teen after that. Christine and Ned will continue working on a good response to this over the summer, consulting with State Forensic Services, Ross Green, and others, for housing, funding, and services.

Christine received an email from Lindsey Tweed and Ned outlining some details of a new Positive Parenting Program - a multilevel approach to reducing child maltreatment and improving effective parenting for children with problem behaviors. The program starts with a public awareness campaign. Dr. Tweed, Ned, and Christine will work more on defining the program. Anyone interested in being on the advisory group for the Triple P Program should contact Therese Cahill Low.

Christine, Pender and a few others are working to offer a JJAG 101 for youth members. They plan to deliver it this summer with pizza and an idea exchange to generate freshness and participation from our youth demographic. All members are welcome.

### ***Department of Corrections – Susan Gagnon for Dr. Fitzpatrick***

The THRIVE Grant is up and running in all 3 regions. Goals: Identify trauma early on and create a trauma informed agency assessment.

DOC is co-sponsoring an Adult and Juvenile Female Offender Conference in October at the Holiday in By the Bay. There will be national expert speakers. Early bird registration options are available.

### ***Department of Public Safety: School Safety Project – Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro***

As a result of the Connecticut shooting, Sgt. Jonathan Shapiro, Chair of the School Violence Committee, spoke about the creation of a safer school environment outside of the usual tactical response. Focal points aim at healthy and holistic school environments instead of singling out mental health. School resource officers are capable of identifying at risk students while increasing the well-being of the total environment. Jonathan wanted to take the time and address the other side of the fence - a less tactical approach. Social and emotional health leads to less violence and better academic achievement.

Ned and Ross Green suggest that mental health is only a portion of the solution, we must embrace and include the kids who are at risk.

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A letter to Senator Collins offering data and research information is being written.

(Richard Brown checked in via phone bridge to confirm there would be no election at this meeting. Paul Vestal will remain acting chair until September, at which time there will be a retreat and restructuring of the JJAG. New leadership will be recruited based on a new agenda.)

### ***Grants Committee, Department of Education – Jacinda Goodwin***

Reminder of the Positive Youth Development Institute (PYDI) at Husson in Bangor on July 25 & 26. Our own Ross Green will be speaking along with other experts and expert practitioners in the field of positive youth development. Jacinda and Commissioner Bowen will continue to work on points identified at the last meeting.

### ***Communications Committee – Patrick Walsh***

Patrick expressed delight after hearing about the JJAG website updates. Nickole DeMerritt looks forward to the sharing of information/feedback for digital publication. Patrick is looking forward to another stab at the Five Facts initiative with Alex's help in updating that information.

Ned is looking for a 250 word Op-ed about the STEM project to push out to Bangor Daily News and perhaps other newspapers. This essay should be drafted with a JJAG member's name and agency attached. An essay, 4 or 5 times a year, will raise JJAG's public visibility.

## **VII. Voting on Unsolicited Requests**

### ***Pine Tree Legal***

Ned made the request to fund \$4,500 of a \$122,633 budget to provide kids at the Preble Street Teen Center with information about their legal rights and to do some one on one work with kids that have specific legal problems and to train staff on how to respond to various situations. Ned suggests that if you're going to serve a population in need, this is about as direct a target as you can get and \$4,500 is a remarkable return on our investment.

Paul Vestal says the \$4,500 is a minute piece of the financial puzzle. Paul points out that there is a much larger budgeting gap than the requested \$4,500 (\$20,027). If the JJAG is to give the \$4,500, it would need to be done in a manner that this is a one-time payment to get them out of a bind. In the future they should be applying for any money from the state as they are not a sole provider in the State of Maine. There are other groups doing this too. They just need a one time helping hand...

Jacinda is interested in sustainability and not just looking at JJAG as a bail-out

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program.

Paul wanted to know why they would be de-funded and looking for such a small piece of the pie through the JJAG.

Christine had a question for Ned. Is the staff person being guided by someone? Ned says she does not go into court but in fact she coordinates with the clinic and the clinic does any court work in juvenile justice court. Christine demonstrated concern about supporting a program that may look good on paper. Furthermore, she was concerned whether or not the kids actually received good legal assistance.

Ned informs the group that Pine Tree's website takes a lot of information from juvenile justice issues and is quite accurate. Most of their work is with our teen population in civil areas addressing protection from abuse, access to medical and other treatment sources. But they do have a significant impact on juvenile justice issues and the case might bleed over into the juvenile justice area and if Chris Northrup were here, I'm sure he would tell you that's when they begin to collaborate with the legal aid. Chris's clinic, the juvenile justice clinic.

Christine asked where the funding (\$4,500) would come from. Kathryn responds by saying it would probably come from some leftover 2011 funding. Kathryn felt the need to tell the group, as their staff person, this idea is nowhere in the three year plan nor the update. It's all about juvenile justice of course, but it doesn't follow our plan. Not to sway you one way or another, we wrote the plan for a reason – so that we would spend our money wisely.

Paul discusses the fact that this is an anomaly. The JJAG, in a letter of response, will suggest they would go through the regular grant process.

Christine noted the budget has a deficit of \$24,527. They're asking for \$4,500. What happens to the outstanding \$20,027? What then?

Paul agrees they didn't break it out like they were running a big agency.

Kathryn wrote to the group asking if the \$4,500 would be enough or would they need to raise the remaining deficit before the work can be done. The response was that the \$4,500 would be enough to support the outreach at the teen center. Actual case representation will likely require other funding depending on the type of legal issue involved. Pine Tree does have some funding sources for case work that are left available for outreach.

Paul mentioned that Pine Tree is only providing two hours of service per month.

Christine, for the sake of clarity, mentioned that this staff person does not represent juveniles in court.

Ned thinks the Pine Tree role in juvenile justice at the Teen Center is to assess what is

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going on and make referrals to the appropriate resources.

Paul suggested they may be able to take the extra \$20,027 out of another one of their own accounts.

In answer to Kathryn's question on the missing \$20,027 Pine Tree Legal offered this:

*-perhaps including a stock grant from the state, but such work would not support the type of services proposed for JJAG funding*

*-by providing a dedicated funding source, we can assure that our staff person will be able to dedicate her time to JJAG priorities regardless of other funding pressures.*

**Motion:** To provide \$4,500 to Pine Tree in order support Courtney's outreach program.

**Moved:** Ned/Christine Thibeault, Esq. 2nd

**Action:** Opposed

### ***Letter from Regina Phillips***

**Motion:** To approve funding Regina Phillips to attend training conference in Seattle, Washington from July 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

**Moved:** Ned Chester/Christine Thibeault 2nd

**Action:** Opposed

Kathryn started by offering some technical information about the request for funding. JJAG received the written request on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The training in Seattle is July 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Kathryn checked Ms. Phillip's budget. Kathryn noted that the registration fee was inaccurate. The budget indicated that the fee for the conference would be \$550 as a member but it really was going to be \$695 (late registration and non-member).

Ms. Phillips intended to stay at the hotel from Sunday to Thursday. The conference ends on Wednesday at 11 a.m. which would lower the budgeted \$1000 to \$641.16.

Ground transportation she indicated would cost \$100 but there is a shuttle that goes for \$13 each way, from the airport to the conference location.

The per diem rate of \$71/day for 4 full days minus an included lunch would be \$253.

By Kathryn's calculations the anticipated cost to us would be somewhere around \$2,400.

The request indicates that she's only looking for these funds to attend a conference. There are no performance measures with outputs and the outcomes are that she will attend the conference, return the unspent money, and give a report to the JJAG.

Kathryn states that Ms. Phillips could not be given cash. The State policy is that

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travelers are reimbursed and original receipts are required.

Paul says this type of request hasn't been dealt with in many years. It's not a normal type procedural thing. The money we have for training and conferences is money for JJAG members for training and conferences.

Christine states that any JJAG members who wish to attend a conference out of state would need to seek approval from the Governor and that should be the protocol here as well.

Paul stated that Ms. Phillips cannot represent the JJAG.

Christine notes that if the JJAG approves this funding an easier path for non-JJAG members to use JJAG training money than JJAG members would be created. She would be concerned about that. There is a review process for how we spend that training money and Christine says that ignoring the process here is not appropriate.

Paul identifies Ms. Phillips as a worker for the city of Portland and she may want to consider going to the City to obtain the funding.

Ned says Ms. Phillips does a great job at what she does and her resume speaks for itself. That being said, if we think this conference would provide the kind of information and support that would be valuable to us we should send our own JJAG members.

Paul says this conference wasn't one that had been flagged for our attendance. There isn't a lot of DMC involved, the workshops and presentation are all interesting but none have been flagged for our attention.

Ned doesn't think it's appropriate to fund this request if we're not funding someone from our own organization. If we were sending a delegation from our own organization then we might send someone to tag along, but to send someone individually just seems outside of our scope.

Kathryn noted that any request for funding outside of a Request for Proposals must come through a JJAG member.

**BREAK**

**VL.(a) Committee/Department Reports (contd):**

***Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services, DHHS – Katie Lauze***

The previous Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Block Grant provided funding for law enforcement mini-grants, statewide compliance checks program for the Maine Sheriff's Association, and youth programming. The state-wide Compliance check program to prevent the sale of alcohol to underage drinkers is now gone. There

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remains a heavy focus on underage drinking prevention.

Katie would like to fund programs like multi-jurisdictional, law enforcement, task forces set up around the state to prevent underage drinking.

Katie requests help from the JJAG to increase meaningful sanctions for youth who have underage drinking violations by creating some kind of diversion option. Their evaluators have developed a survey to learn what court stakeholders think and what they need to improve the situation. She asks that members answer the survey and/or talk on phone with EUDL evaluator. It would be a big help to her if members will help circulate these ideas. Christine offered to send info out to prosecutors and other connections. Christine offered to have Katie attend court with her and connect in real time in an effort to make meaningful contact with key personnel.

Kathryn will send all JJAG member contacts to Katie.

**VIII. Presentation – “Interagency Model Project for Academic and Correctional Transition” Susan Pettingill**

Project IMPACT is a 25 year old successful program that transitions students into and out of Corrections. It began with a cooperative agreement between DOC and DOE to establish a framework of communication and information exchange between DOC and school administrative units.

Both detained and committed youth are served.

**IX. Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at noon.